

NEITZKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1572 NAVY nominations (2) beginning NATHAN JOHNSTON, and ending ROGER D. MUSSELMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1573 NAVY nominations (11) beginning PHILIP ARMAS, JR., and ending CHRISTOPHER D. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1574 NAVY nominations (10) beginning CATHERINE O. DURHAM, and ending REBECCA A. ZORNADO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1575 NAVY nominations (13) beginning JAMES H. BURNS, and ending REBECCA S. SNYDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1576 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN M. HARDHAM, and ending MARTIN W. WADEWITZ, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1577 NAVY nominations (8) beginning PHILIP J. ABELDT, and ending MICHAEL B. VENER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1578 NAVY nominations (22) beginning LAUREN P. ARCHER, and ending ALISSA G. SPEZIALE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 2016 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE BASQUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the first day of the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which is featuring the Basque.

Since 1967, the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage has honored cultural traditions during its annual festival and celebrated the individuals who help keep important traditions alive. The festival has featured participants from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, and this summer, the festival will showcase Basque culture in Washington, DC.

The Basque migrated to the United States from an ancient and free culture located in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the gold rush in Nevada and California drew the Basque out West. They became well-known for their strong work ethic and skill for business. As the western mines attracted workers from across the United States

and around the world, innovative Basques capitalized on the opportunity to raise sheep and sell sheep products to miners. During this time, the sheep industry in Nevada grew exponentially.

Following World War II, Nevada's Basque population soared, with a majority of Basques settling in northern Nevada. The Basque brought with them traditional dances in colorful costumes, music, their unique language, and cuisine that remains a hallmark in the State of Nevada. Communities throughout the State have benefited from the innovation of the Basque settlers and the traditions they and their descendants have kept alive.

Over the years, the Basque have become a part of Nevada communities, established businesses, and served our Nation as doctors, lawyers, scientists, and teachers. The sons of Basque parents, Paul and Robert Laxalt, are among those who have earned a place in Nevada history, becoming well-known for their strong Basque roots and accomplishments. Paul dedicated his life to public service by serving as the Governor of Nevada and as a U.S. Senator, and Robert was a successful writer who captured the Basque experience in the American West in books such as "Sweet Promised Land" and "The Basque Hotel."

The importance of the Basque's impact on Nevada history is exemplified by the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada's land grant university. The center maintains an extensive collection of Basque oral history and provides students the opportunity to gain expertise in Basque culture and tradition. The center, along with so many others in the State of Nevada and throughout the Nation, have worked hard to keep the rich history and spirit of Basque culture and tradition thriving in the United States.

I am pleased the Smithsonian Folklife Festival will celebrate this incredible culture for this year's festival, and I welcome the Nevadans who have traveled to Washington to participate in the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

#### THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Saturday was the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. In this case, a divided Court voted 5-4 to gut the Voting Rights Act. The Court struck down the provision of the Voting Rights Act that required certain jurisdictions with a documented history of discrimination to "preclear" any changes to their voting laws with the Department of Justice.

In the 3 years since *Shelby County*, Democrats and a small handful of Republicans have sought to restore the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, the majority of Republicans in Congress have obstructed efforts to reinstate ro-

bust Federal voting protections. As a result, 2016 will mark the first Presidential election without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since this historic legislation was signed into law in 1965.

The restrictions on voting that many Americans face today can be traced back to the 2010 midterm election. After that election, in which Republicans won control of several State legislative chambers and governorships, State lawmakers across the country introduced burdensome voting laws. These laws ranged from strict voter identification requirements to cuts in early voting. At the time, the Voting Rights Act served as a backstop, preventing States covered by the preclearance requirement from implementing changes that had a discriminatory purpose or effect.

That is why the *Shelby County* decision in 2013 had an immediate impact. Released from preclearance requirements, States with discriminatory histories were free to move forward with new restrictions on voting. For example, within hours of the *Shelby County* decision, Texas State officials announced that they would immediately implement a photo ID requirement for in-person voting that Texas first tried to put in place in 2011. This burdensome voter ID law had previously been blocked by both the Department of Justice and a Federal appeals court, due to the law's harmful impact on poor and minority voters. As a result of this law going into effect, we heard disturbing stories of a 93-year-old veteran and nearly 70-year-old doctor who were turned away from the polls in Texas in 2014 because their IDs did not meet the onerous new requirements.

During my time as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, I held a series of hearings that examined restrictive State voting laws. During these hearings, we heard over and over again that these laws have a disproportionate impact on lower-income, minority, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable voting populations.

I asked the State officials at each of my hearings whether there were any widespread instances of voter fraud to justify these laws, and they were unable to point to any examples. There have been only a handful of prosecutions over the last decade. This clearly is not a problem in need of a solution. This is clearly an effort to restrict the opportunity to vote for certain Americans.

This year, voters in 17 States will face restrictions that they have not previously experienced in a Presidential election. Eight of these States were previously covered by the preclearance provision in the Voting Rights Act.

Recent primary elections in many of these States gave voters a taste of potential problems to come in the general election. In Maricopa County, AZ, some voters were forced to endure

waits of more than 5 hours in order to cast their ballots in the March primary election. The cause of the delay was a decision by a local election official to massively cut the number of polling locations. In the 2008 primary, 400 polling places were available. In 2016, that number was slashed to a mere 60 locations. Prior to Shelby County, such a change would have been evaluated and likely challenged by the Justice Department in a preclearance review.

In Wisconsin, a newly implemented voter photo identification law led to challenges and confusion in the April primary. Press reports recently documented the story of one of the affected voters. Eddie Lee Holloway, Jr., moved from my home State of Illinois to Wisconsin in 2008 and was able to vote without any problems before the voter ID law went into effect. After the law was passed, Mr. Holloway went to a DMV in Milwaukee with an expired Illinois photo ID, his birth certificate, and his Social Security card to obtain a Wisconsin photo ID for voting. However, his application was rejected due to a clerical error on his birth certificate, which read "Eddie Junior Holloway."

Mr. Holloway spent hundreds of dollars traveling to Illinois to try to fix this problem. In addition to the Milwaukee DMV, he visited the Vital Records System in Milwaukee, the Illinois Vital Records Division in Springfield, an Illinois DMV, and his high school in Decatur, IL—all in an attempt to obtain sufficient records for a Wisconsin voter ID. Ultimately, he was unsuccessful. Despite all of these efforts, Mr. Holloway was unable to vote in the April primary.

What is particularly infuriating about Mr. Holloway's case is that Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature were hoping for exactly this type of outcome. The chief of staff to a leading Republican State senator in Wisconsin resigned last year after witnessing Republican legislators who were, "literally giddy" over the impact the new voter ID law would have on minority and student voters. In an interview with the *New York Times*, the former staffer said, "I remember when Republicans were the ones who helped Johnson pass the civil rights bill in the '60s." Indeed, it was 51 years ago this year President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bipartisan Voting Rights Act into law—guaranteeing that the right to vote would not be restricted through clever schemes, like poll taxes and literacy tests, devised to keep African Americans from voting.

I wish that, 51 years after we enacted the Voting Rights Act, our society had reached a point where its protections were no longer necessary, but we clearly have not, and the Voting Rights Act is still very much needed today.

That is why Senator LEAHY, Senator COONS, and I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act last year. This legislation would restore the Voting Rights Act. It would ensure that

burdensome voting laws will be reviewed and, if found to be discriminatory, blocked before they go into effect.

I recently joined Senator LEAHY and our Democratic colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee in sending a letter to the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, urging them to hold a hearing on voting rights and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Between 2007 and 2013, Senate Democrats held nine hearings to examine the issue of voting rights. In contrast, Republicans have not held a single hearing on voting rights since taking the majority in 2015.

This is disappointing. Voting rights has traditionally been a bipartisan issue. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Three hundred and ninety Members of the House and 98 Senators came together on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize the bill. Twenty-one hearings with more than 90 witnesses and a 15,000-page record illustrated to us that the Voting Rights Act was still very much needed. Three years ago, the Supreme Court ignored our efforts in Shelby County, but we can, and we must, come together once again to address voting rights.

Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, a Republican from Wisconsin, has introduced legislation in the House to restore the Voting Rights Act. Earlier this year, he wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times*. He noted, "Ensuring that every eligible voter can cast a ballot without fear, deterrence and prejudice is a basic American right. I would rather lose my job than suppress votes to keep it."

I urge my colleagues to listen to Congressman SENSENBRENNER and join us in our fight to restore the Voting Rights Act. It is time to bring the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act to the floor and ensure that the Federal Government is once again able to fully protect the fundamental right to vote.

#### REMEMBERING KASIA BOBER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to note the passing earlier this month of a treasured member of Chicago's Polish community, Kasia Bober, at the age of 80.

Back in August of 2005, I introduced a bill to grant honorary posthumous citizenship to Casimir Pulaski. I held a press conference in Chicago at the Polish Museum of America in front of a giant painting of Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah. Afterward, I sat down with leaders from the Polish community to discuss various issues. Kasia joined us for the meeting and brought those famous pierogi and other treats from her deli. I learned firsthand why some consider her the "Pierogi Queen" of Chicago.

Kasia's story is like many immigrant stories in the great melting pot of Chi-

cago. She came to the United States in 1974 in search of a better life. At first, she lived with relatives and was separated from her three children who remained in Poland. But after years of hard work, she was finally able to reunite with her children and open her own deli. Kasia's cooking quickly became a hit, especially her potato and cheese pierogi. Customers began to call from different States, which led to Kasia's pierogi being available today in 26 States.

Kasia's pierogi are so well known that at least three U.S. Presidents have eaten them while in Chicago. In an article that appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, her granddaughter recalled that President George H.W. Bush dined on Kasia's pierogi while visiting the Copernicus Center, President Bill Clinton had some at the Taste of Chicago, and President Barack Obama ate a few during a Sister Cities festival. Polish labor leader Lech Walesa also enjoyed Kasia's cooking on a trip to Chicago.

It is quite the story for an immigrant who worked 7 days a week at multiple jobs while chasing her own American dream. Up until her passing, Kasia could still be found working at her namesake deli in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood. Chicago's "Pierogi Queen" may be gone, but she will not soon be forgotten.

I offer my condolences to Kasia's daughters, Barbara Jakubowicz and Maria Kordas; her son, Christopher; her sisters, Janina and Jozia; her six grandchildren; and her great-grandchild.

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS VANDEN BERK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to thank Thomas Vanden Berk for his extraordinary service to the city of Chicago. Tom has spent 40 years devoted to one cause: improving the lives of Chicago's most vulnerable by working with children and families who have been abused, neglected, and traumatized. Earlier this year, Tom announced he would be retiring as chief executive officer of the Uhlich Children's Advantage network, UCAN.

In 1987, when Tom joined UCAN, it was a small shelter housing 50 boys and girls, operating under a \$1.7 million budget and on the verge of closing. Under Tom's direction, UCAN grew into a multifaceted and financially sound shelter focusing on child welfare programs, violence prevention, and strategies for combating gun violence. Today UCAN is a leading child welfare organization in Chicago with a new \$41 million campus providing a full continuum of over 30 programs, servicing more than 10,000 people every year.

Tom's been the recipient of numerous awards, including the "Friend of Child" award from the Illinois Council on Training; Peace Leader Award from the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence; and the Council for Health